

Construction work of railway hotels

†554. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work has been started in those 100 stations which have been selected by his Ministry in the country to enter into hospitality sector;

(b) by when these hotels would be available to the public for use;

(c) whether any provision has been made so that common man can also benefit from them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 100 Budget Hotels sites have been identified. Out of them tenders for 20 sites have been finalized & tender for 10 sites have been floated and remaining 70 sites are under finalization. After finalization of contract, signing of Agreement and completion of construction work of the Budget Hotel, the same will be opened for passengers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 25% of total rooms are priced at less than Rs. 1000/- (inclusive of all taxes).

Railway schemes to be started during Eleventh Plan

†555. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major railway schemes to be started during Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the number of schemes proposed for 'Northern Zone' out of them;

(c) whether Railways has made an estimation of the amount to be spent on modernisation and expansion programmes during Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The 11th Five Year Plan for Railways is under finalization in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Railway land

556. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has more than four lakh hectare of surplus land;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways has proposed to use this surplus land for the purpose of commercial farming;

(c) if so, the complete details in this regard; and

(d) whether Railways is planning to issue a policy document for leasing out railway land for logistic parks, warehousing and retailing and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Out of total land holding of 4.31 lakh hectare, Railways has only 0.45 lakh hectare vacant land, which is required by Railways for its own uses.

(b) and (c) Railways do not have any surplus land. However, till such time the vacant land is needed by Railways for its operational use, the same is utilized for various short-term uses including commercial plantation. Under the policy, JV partner is allowed to undertake plantation on 50:50 revenue sharing basis. While planter is required to bear all the cost of plantation, Railways contribution in turn would be land only.

(d) Yes, Sir. A policy document for leasing out spare-able railway land for the development of multi modal logistic parks/rail side warehouses/ stockyards and terminals for handling container trains by private investors is under consideration.